

REMARKS

Applicant hereby submits the foregoing amendments and requests that the Examiner enter such amendments prior to examining the above referenced patent application. Applicant submits the above claim amendments to expedite prosecution of this case and obviate the anticipated rejections similar to those set forth in the Office Action mailed to Applicant on November 25, 2003 in the parent case. After entry of this amendment, claims 1-7, 10-17, 20-24, and 27-29 are pending in this application.

In the November 25, 2003 Office Action, in the parent case the Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 10-17, 20-24, and 27-29 as obvious in light of Cassell. In view of the present amendments, Applicant submits that all pending claims are allowable. Applicant submits these remarks and amends claims 1 and 11 to further clarify between the method described in the Cassell reference, and the method of the presently claimed invention.

The Examiner in the above-mentioned Office Action cites,

“Cassell discloses or suggests the basic claimed method for facilitating the fabrication of a cover for at least a portion of an article, including positioning shrinkable material over at least a portion of the article, shrinking the shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for at least a portion of the article, and applying a layer of molding material overlying the fitted cover to form a cover for the article.”

In general, the Cassell reference discloses a method to produce an end product, specifically a radome, from a number of smaller components. The components are pieced together in a mold to form the radome. In the Cassell reference, the components are produced using lead mandrels that are subsequently melted out later in the process (Cassell, Column 3, lines 43 -52). In contrast, Applicant’s amended independent claims recite, “A method for facilitating the fabrication of a hard cover for at least a portion of an article to be covered by said hard cover,” wherein the “article to be covered” is an end product, for example, an appliance, vehicle, etc. The presently claimed invention does not disclose a method to produce an end product, but rather to produce a cover for an end product.

Specifically, in the Cassell reference, as referred to by the Examiner, the “article” is a lead mandrel, not an end product as in the presently claimed invention. Therefore, the Cassell

reference does not teach making a “hard cover,” but rather using a lead mandrel to assist in the production of components to make a final end product, namely a radome.

The Cassell reference does not describe the fabrication of a hard cover for an “article,” but rather describes a method wherein an “article” is merely a subcomponent (namely) to assist in producing a final end product, wherein the lead mandrel is discarded prior to creating the final end product. In contrast, the “article” as set forth in the present invention and supported by the specification, is the end product that is covered by a hard cover made by the method of the presently claimed invention, wherein, “articles” may include, for example, appliances, vehicles, etc. Therefore, it is clear that the Cassell reference does not include, “an article to be covered by said hard cover,” as required by the presently claimed invention and cited in claim 1.

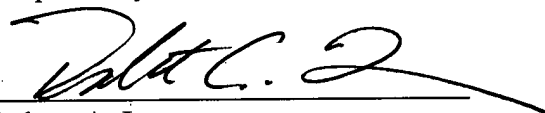
In other words, the method in Cassell does not describe a process to form a “hard cover,” and particularly does not describe a process to form a “hard cover” for what the presently claimed invention describes as an “article.” Rather, Cassell teaches a method wherein individual components are produced, which are subsequently combined to form the end product itself. The “article” in Cassell is merely a basic subcomponent, a lead mandrel, used to assist in making the components for a final end product, namely a radome, and does not describe a method to produce a hard cover for a radome. Indeed, if the Cassell reference taught the process disclosed by the presently claimed invention, the Cassell reference would have taught a method wherein a hard cover for a radome was produced by covering a radome with heat shrinkable material, heat shrinking it to the surface of the radome, covering the shrinkable material with a molding material, applying a curable binder or resin to the molding material, and allowing the molding material to set, thus creating a hard cover for a radome. As such, the Cassell reference does not include, “an article to be covered by said hard cover,” as required by the presently claimed invention and cited in claim 1.

The Examiner further notes in the November 25, 2004 Office Action, in the parent case, that “Cassell also teaches the forming of a first article from a second article, as in claim 11, by forming a radome.” Applicant asserts that the Examiner misinterprets what is meant by “first” and “second” article between the Cassell reference and the presently claimed invention. The “first article” in Cassell is the end product produced, which in this case is a radome. The “first

article" radome is produced from a "second article", the individual components that combine to form the radome, best shown in Cassell at Figure 1, element 16. However, in the presently claimed invention, the "first article" is a hard cover, and the "second article" is the end product the hard cover is made for. The difference between Cassell and the present invention is that, in Cassell, the "second article" is a component for the end product, ("first article,") and in the present invention, the "first article" is the end product to be covered by the hard cover, ("second article.") Therefore, Cassell does not include, "A method for facilitating fabrication of a first article from a second article wherein said first article is used as a cover for said second article," as required by the presently claimed invention and recited in claim 11.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-7, 10-17, 20-24, and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as set forth in the office action mailed to Applicant on November 25, 2004. Applicant respectfully submits that the present application with the new claim set is in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits a Notice of Allowance at the Examiner's earliest convenience. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if such would advance prosecution of this Application in any way.

Respectfully submitted,



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